

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 30, 2003 (Paper No. 30). Claims 63 to 66 and 68 to 71 are in the application, with Claims 63, 70 and 71 being the independent claims. Claims 63, 70 and 71 have been amended. Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Initially, the Office Action indicates, on page 2, that the present application is not entitled to the provisions of the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) because it was not filed on or after November 29, 2000. However, the present application was filed on January 16, 2002, and as such, is entitled to the provisions of the AIPA, including the changes to 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

Claims 63 to 66 and 68 to 71 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,243,171 (Haneda). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to image reproduction control. The present invention utilizes storage units with detachable memory. The detachable memory is used to store reproducible images and a reproduction instruction file. The reproduction instruction file contains file names which specify which of the images stored in the detachable memory are to be reproduced. The present invention also utilizes a reading section for reading the reproduction instruction file, a reproduction control section for controlling the reproduction of the images to reproduced, a display control section for user confirmation of the images to be reproduced, and an operating section for starting the image reproduction with input from a user. One aspect of the present invention lies in the feature that the display unit displays thumbnail images corresponding to the images stored

in the detachable memory, wherein the thumbnail images that are displayed are distinguished between those that have designated by the reproduction instruction file and those that have not. Another aspect of the present invention lies in the feature that the operation section starts image reproduction in accordance with a user input which is given after confirmation by the user that the images specified by the reproduction image file are those that are desired to be reproduced. In this way, the user can start image reproduction after it has been confirmed that the correct images have been selected for reproduction.

With specific reference to the claims, Claim 63 recites an image reproduction control apparatus that comprises a storage unit using a detachable memory. The detachable memory stores a plurality of reproducible images and a reproduction instruction file. The reproduction instruction file includes one or more file names specifying one or more images to be reproduced, and the one or more file names are in an order. The image reproduction control apparatus of Claim 63 also comprises a reading section for reading the reproduction instruction file to determine the one or more file names specifying one or more images to be reproduced, a reproduction control section for controlling reproduction of the one or more images to be reproduced by reading, in order, the one or more images to be reproduced specified by the reproduction instruction file, a display control section for controlling display, in a display unit, so that a user may confirm whether or not reproduction of the one or more images is to be performed, wherein the display unit displays thumbnail images corresponding to the images stored in the detachable memory, and wherein the thumbnail images displayed are distinguished between images that have been designated by the reproduction instruction file and images that have not been designated by the reproduction instruction file, and an operation section for starting the reproduction in accordance with input from a user and for performing the

reproduction of the one or more images to be reproduced after confirmation by the user that the one or more images specified by the reproduction instruction file are to be reproduced, wherein, in the confirmation, the one or more thumbnail images are reproduced as image data to be displayed.

Independent Claims 70 and 71 are method and computer-readable storage medium claims, respectively, that correspond generally to Claim 63.

Applicant respectfully submits that the applied art does not disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed features of independent Claims 63, 70 and 71. In particular, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of a display unit that displays thumbnail images corresponding to the images stored in the detachable memory, wherein the thumbnail images displayed are distinguished between images that have been designated by the reproduction instruction file and images that have not been designated by the reproduction instruction file, and an operating section that starts the reproduction in accordance with input from a user and performs the reproduction of the one or more images to reproduced after confirmation by the user that the one or more images specified by the reproduction instruction file are to be reproduced, wherein, in the confirmation, the one or more thumbnail images are reproduced as image data to be displayed.

Haneda relates to film image management and image data copying. Haneda discloses a playback and display control circuit 17 and a display unit 18 for displaying a menu screen and images. The images displayed include an image represented by image data outputted by a film reader, an image represented by the reduced image data that is to be written to a user's disk, and an image represented by the original image data (column 17, lines 46-56). Haneda makes no suggestion that the images displayed are distinguished

between those that have been selected for reproduction and those that have not been selected for reproduction.

Haneda further discloses that photographs are printed by utilizing parameter data recorded on a disk. The printing can be automatically executed from the order data contained on the disk, semiautomatically executed by having an operator enter commands and data at the time of each operation, or manually executed by having an operator enter printing conditions manually. However, Haneda is not seen to suggest that the start of image reproduction is triggered by a user input after confirmation that the thumbnail images displayed are correctly designated by a reproduction instruction file as images that are desired to be reproduced.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that Haneda is not seen to disclose or suggest a display unit that displays thumbnail images corresponding to the images stored in the detachable memory, wherein the thumbnail images displayed are distinguished between images that have been designated by the reproduction instruction file and images that have not been designated by the reproduction instruction file, and an operating section that starts the reproduction in accordance with input from a user and performs the reproduction of the one or more images to reproduced after confirmation by the user that the one or more images specified by the reproduction instruction file are to be reproduced, wherein, in the confirmation, the one or more thumbnail images are reproduced as image data to be displayed.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the

invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California, office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael K. Scinto", written over a horizontal line.

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